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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume IX

Bowling Green, Ky., July 1933

Number 3

Our Spring Meeting—The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its eleventh annual meeting at Louisville, on April 21, at 2:00 P. M., in the ballroom of the Watterson Hotel. Dr. T. Atchison Frazer presided. The sixth grade of the Ellen C. Semple School, of Louisville, gave a dramatization of Longfellow's "Birds of Killingworth." The school children of Louisville also distributed favors and exhibited numerous bird houses and feeding stations.

Mr. B. C. Bacon, one of the three founders of the K. O. S., talked on "Birds of Spring Lake Sanctuary," giving an account of the lake and the surrounding country and of the founding of the Spring Lake Fishing Club. He enumerated the more than 200 species of birds that he personally has recorded for the area and commented on numerous rare or unusual species.

Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, by request, gave his inimitable bird and animal calls, which he has arranged in the form of a story called "A Midnight Concert in Panther Hollow." Everybody enjoyed his vocal interpretations of bird and animal calls.

Professor Gordon Wilson repeated, by request, his talk on "Six Summer Trips," which he gave last fall at Madisonville. In it he enumerated the 89 species recorded during the summer and described some of the wild sections he visited in the edge of the Mammoth Cave National Park, at the mouth of Barren River, and down Drake's Creek.

Everyone regretted that illness prevented Dr. L. Otley Pindar, of Versailles, one of the founders of the society, from being present and taking part on the program.

Mr. Bacon invited the society to hold its fall meeting again at Madisonville. The society voted unanimously to return to Madisonville for the 1933 fall meeting.

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Our Fall Meeting—Mr. Bacon, after consulting the officers of the K. O. S., feels that October 6 and 7 will be the best time for our fall meeting. Begin right now to plan to be with us. On Friday we shall

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speaking before schools in and near Madisonville and hold an evening session open to the public. We shall spend Saturday on a field trip on and near the Spring Lake Sanctuary. Last year this outing proved the most memorable feature of any session we have ever had. There is no reason why this year's outing should not be even better than the one of 1933.

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Some Spring Records—Here are some records of birds in Kentucky that are interesting:

Loon and Whistling Swan, Spring Lake Sanctuary, Madisonville, April 1. Apparently the Swans were the remnant of the flock that was seen a few days previously near the city, and which was wantonly shot into.

Blue Goose, McElroy Farm, near Bowling Green, March 17, 18, 24, and 31. The five left about April 13.

Wilson's Phalarope, on the Ohio River, near Louisville, the first week in May; on the McElroy Farm, near Bowling Green, May 11.

Egret (April 27 and 29), Florida Gallinule (May 11 and 21), Piping Plover (May 21), and Black-bellied Plover (May 21), McElroy Farm, near Bowling Green.

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The McElroy Farm—Only in 1927 were there more birds on the temporary lake on the McElroy Farm, at Rich Pond, ten miles south of Bowling Green. From March 13 to May 21 I recorded 31 species of water and wading birds. Here are the species, with first and last dates: Pied-billed Grebe (April 20-29), Great Blue Heron (May 21), American Egret (April 27-29), Eastern Green Heron (April 27-May 13), American Bittern (April 27-May 21), Blue Goose (March 17-31), Common Mallard (March 18-31), Red-legged Black Duck (March 24), American Pintail (March 18-31), Blue-winged Teal (March 18-May 21), Shoveller (April 29-May 2), Wood Duck (March 24), Lesser Scaup (March 31-April 29), Sora Rail (April 29-May 11), Florida Gallinule (May 11-21), American Coot (March 18-May 11), Semipalmated Plover (May 2-21), Piping Plover (May 21), Black-bellied Plover (May 21), Killdeer (a permanent resident), American Woodcock (May 2), Wilson's Snipe (March 18-May 2), Spotted Sandpiper (April 20-May 21), Eastern Solitary Sandpiper (March 24-May 11), Greater Yellow-legs (March 18-May 13), Lesser Yellow-legs (March 31-May 21), Pectoral Sandpiper (March 18-May 2), Least Sandpiper (April 27-May 21), Semipalmated Sandpiper (May 11-21), Wilson's Phalarope (May 11), Black Tern (May 2).

—Gordon Wilsen.

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Some New Bird Books—Mr. Albert F. Ganier, one of the three honorary members of the K. O. S., has bought out since our last issue two excellent pamphlets: *Water Birds of Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee*, and *A Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee*. Both

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of these are of great interest to all Kentucky bird students because of the great similarity between Tennessee and Kentucky in location and altitude. The first pamphlet, of 24 pages, deals with the numerous trips to Reelfoot Lake that Mr. Ganier has made in the last twenty years and especially with the record-breaking trip he made last year, when he found the great Cranetown, where were nesting Ward's Heron, the American Egret, Little Blue Heron, and other water and wading birds. The list for the whole state gives the seasonal distribution of 293 species and several introduced or now extinct species. Each species is shown in its seasonal distribution in the three great areas of Tennessee: the Purchase, Central Tennessee, and the Mountains. This booklet, of 64 pages, is a monumental contribution to the study of birds in the state and has caused several of our members to want to supply for Kentucky the same kind of valuable scientific data, available for all who want to know about our birds. This booklet also contains much good material on bird books, methods of attracting birds around the home, the geographic regions of Tennessee, and a discussion of several species that are misunderstood. These bulletins can be obtained for a small sum from the Tennessee Ornithological Society, Nashville.

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Apparently our members forgot our proposed summer census of species. Miss Yunker alone sent in a list, of 29 species recorded at Camp Chelan, 14 miles from Louisville, on June 25 and 26: Carolina Chickadee, Cardinal, Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Purple Martin, Kentucky Warbler, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Sparrow Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Bank Swallow, Wood Pewee, Bluebird, Tufted Titmouse, Bronzed Grackle, Song Sparrow, Killdeer, Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Meadowlark, Green Heron, Crow, Kingfisher, and Blue Jay.

The editor's best find was made as Woodbury, at the mouth of the Barren River, on June 2-4, 69 species.

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An Annual List—Nothing is quite so stimulating as an annual list of birds seen. Our faithful Michigan member, Oscar McKinley Bryens, of McMillan, recently sent the editor his list of 131 species recorded this year near his home. Many of these species are rare or unknown here, but it is interesting to see many of our winter residents appearing late in the spring with him and to see our spring migrants finding their way many weeks or days later in the woods of the northern peninsula of Michigan. Mr. Bryens's excellent list, which the editor prizes highly, ought to give us a suggestion as to bird study. Why not every member send the editor before the next issue a complete list of his 1933 finds, marking each as to seasonal distribution: resident, summer resident, winter resident, migrant in spring and fall? This would make an interesting chart, arranged like the one of the Bowling Green Christmas Censuses in the April issue of the Warbler.

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Attracting Birds to Your Home—Open a cafeteria in your garden, near a window. A cigar box will do to begin with. Place a roof over it. Put in some bread crumbs. Don't be discouraged if the birds fail to appear. It won't be long before an inquisitive Chickadee may come. He'll do the advertising. By and by a Titmouse, or a Nut-hatch, will come. Study the tastes of your birds. Experiment with chopped nuts, meat scraps, cracked corn, scrambled eggs. Dried raisins are sure to attract the Mockingbirds. Save your sunflower seeds, and the Cardinals will pay you daily visits.

With the help of our neighbors we saved a gallon of cantaloupe seeds; small portions are put out daily, the Cardinals being especially grateful for this food. There are two rush periods for food: early in the morning just before sunrise, and again late in the afternoon.

A very excellent cafeteria can be made of a cheese box lid. I have often supervised the making of them. With a roof made of tar paper, the food can be kept protected against the weather.

An attractive bird bath can be made by placing on a pile of irregular rocks a large saucer such as is often put under a flower pot.

It is not necessary to pay large sums for cafeterias and bird baths when they can be made so easily and so cheaply.

—Emilie Yunker, Louisville.

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Kentucky Studies—Dr. Lancaster and Dr. Stephens, of the Western Kentucky State Teachers College, have started some far-reaching studies of Kentucky plants and animals. Two recent theses presented at Western are entitled "Ferns of the Mammoth Cave National Park" and "Fishes of the Mammoth Cave National Park." Plans are being made to make similar studies of trees, shrubs, birds, mammals, etc.

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Mr. James W. Dell, the custodian for the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, near Louisville, recently sent Miss Yunker a lively account of how Robins taught their young to fly, an intimate, accurate observation by one who loves the birds and is patient enough to see a whole season through without resorting to wild-eyed exaggeration. We compliment Mr. Dell on his interest in birds and hope that he will come to our meeting at Louisville some time and give us some of these personal observations of nature's ways.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April, 1923

President.....Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, Marion

Vice-President.....Miss Mary May Wyman, 1040 Mary St., Louisville

Secretary-Treasurer.....Mr. Edward M. Ray, Fordsville

Meets annually in the spring in Louisville during the week of The Kentucky Educational Association; in the fall at some town in the state.

Dues for K. O. S. membership: adult, 50c a year; child, 25c. Address Warbler correspondence to Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.